

Trees Across Colorado for 2008

A program of The Colorado Tree Coalition

September 28, 2007

Hello! If you want to help make your community more livable by involving volunteers in planting shade trees, please read on. Also check out the Tree Order Form, Frequently Asked Questions, and Tree Descriptions.

For the sixth year, Trees Across Colorado, a program of the Colorado Tree Coalition, offers low cost shade trees to groups all across Colorado. The Colorado Tree Coalition is a nonprofit state-wide organization dedicated to preserving, renewing and enhancing Colorado's community forests. The trees, most low to moderately low water demand varieties, will be 6-12 feet tall on arrival next April, 1 - 1 ½ inches in diameter and come bare root or balled and burlaped.

Why do this? You strengthen your community by bringing community members together on a fun project that also improves the quality of life by planting more trees. Recent satellite photos show that we must plant trees to keep pace with development if we want a healthy ecosystem. Trees help us by:

- cooling our neighborhoods in summer with shade and transpiration;
- cleaning the air of pollution by catching particulates on their leaves;
- turning carbon dioxide into oxygen for us to breathe;
- slowing down storm drainage flooding;
- reducing water consumption of plants protected by their shade;
- lowering winter heating bills by slowing down the wind;
- Adding value to our property.

For more information on trees and their benefits, visit the Colorado Tree Coalition web page at www.coloradotrees.org

How do you participate? Basically, organize a group **to order now** a minimum total of 20 trees to plant next April. I strongly suggest that you also work with your local city or state forestry staff people to chose trees best for your area. Please let me know immediately if you are going to participate, including what kinds of trees and an estimate of numbers you want and then act quickly because I need to have your final tree numbers by December 15, 2007, half payment by January 10, 2008, and the full payment when you pick up the trees as they are unloaded in April. An order form with the list of trees and prices is attached.

Groups must order bare root (BR) trees (\$25.00 - \$35.00 each) in multiples of five because they are shipped in bundles of 5 by the growers, but balled and burlaped (B&B) trees (\$43.00 each) can be ordered in any number. Members of your group pay you up front and you pay the Colorado Tree Coalition through me (in two single checks, please) for the trees. Unfortunately, you cannot cancel any part of your order after Dec 15th when I finalize the numbers with the nurseries because I don't have any more room in my backyard!

Next spring, you come with your volunteers and a truck(s) to unload your trees from huge refrigerated trucks on a Tuesday in mid April. Exact dates and locations will be determined in January. You cover the roots to prevent drying out and transport the trees carefully to a cool, damp storage place in your community, always protecting the tree roots so they don't dry out, and store them until your community members come get them from you.

Most of the trees are low or moderately-low water demand trees once established except a few varieties which are included because they have done moderately well during drought but should be planted in irrigated areas.

The list includes 29 varieties: trees with color in the summer or fall, flowers in the spring or summer, some that are fairly common and others that are harder to find here. Ash trees have been eliminated due to the threat of Emerald Ash Borer spreading from other parts of the country. The attached tree descriptions give more information about the trees. Please remember when you are choosing varieties to offer that although small ornamental trees are beautiful in flower, **large trees remove 1,000 times more pollution from the air than small trees and give us much more shade.**

Drought, increasingly limited water resources and global-warming have impacted how all of us look at landscaping, including trees. It is a reminder that the Denver front-range area is a semi-arid high plain where few shade trees grew except along creek beds before early settlers planted shade trees to mitigate the dry hot summers and dusty streets. In most parts of Colorado, water is a limited and valuable resource that we should use with caution and planning because of its unpredictable availability.

By choosing trees that can survive with little watering once established (several years after they are planted), and planting them properly and in locations that maximize the benefits of their shade and beauty, we can leave the next generation cooler, more energy efficient and beautiful neighborhoods with cleaner air. We must care for trees properly if they are to provide these benefits. **People must be prepared to hand water their new trees in summer and winter, even carrying buckets of water, if outside watering is banned due to water shortage.**

Please call me at 303-744-3882 or email me immediately at gertiegrant@estreet.com and let me know if you are interested in trying this in your community. Because some trees are in short supply and will go to those who get me their orders first, I'd like to know whom to call when any tree varieties are all spoken for.

Here are some suggestions to make this easier for you and your group.

- If this is your first year, start small: reserve 20 – 50 trees of 4-5 different kinds, keeping in mind that bare root trees must be ordered in multiples of 5.
- Even if you think your group will be ordering over 150 trees, limit the kinds of trees you offer your neighbors. Remember, bare root trees must be ordered by each group in multiples of five. The first year I did it, we offered only six choices, including just one small variety for under power lines.
- Ask your neighbors to give you second and even third choices so you have flexibility rounding out bare root varieties to multiples of 5 or if their first choice is already gone.

Thanks for your interest in making your community a cooler greener place! Please call me at 303-744-3882 or email me at gertiegrant@estreet.com if you are interested. I am a volunteer and may refer you to someone who can answer your questions better than I can.

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P.S. These trees are NOT guaranteed because the cost is so low, but when I ran Denver Digs Trees, we had a 90 percent survival rate the first year and about 75% after four years. I can provide resources /referrals for tree planting instructions and help with materials you need to do this in your community.